



# *e-News From MAIENstreet*

## **A Neighborhood e-Newsletter From Councilman Brian Maienschein**

July /August 2002

Volume 2, Issue



### **Proudly Representing the District Five**

#### **Communities of:**

*Carmel Mountain Ranch*

*Mira Mesa*

*Rancho Bernardo*

*Sabre Springs*

*San Pasqual*

*Scripps Ranch*

*Sorrento Mesa*

*Sorrento Valley*

## **Maienschein's Teen Court Completes First Year**

When I first took office my initial list of goals in office included the expansion of the juvenile diversion program called Teen Court to include more schools throughout the City of San Diego. Teen Court allows first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders to participate in a binding sentencing hearing administered by a jury of their peers. In addition to sitting as jurors, high school students act as attorneys, bailiffs and court clerks in the courtroom.

Under the Teen Court program, juvenile offenders who are referred by the San Diego Police Department must first accept responsibility for the crime they have committed, then agree to abide by the punishment selected by the jury. Punishments can include counseling, workshops related to the offense, community service, letters of apology to victims and parents, research assignments, drug testing and mediation with the victim.

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## **Maienschein Demands that Sav-On Act as Good Neighbor**

San Diego City Councilmember Brian Maienschein voted against a proposed development of a Sav-On Drug store on El Cajon Boulevard at the June 4, 2002 City Council meeting citing Sav-On's failure to meet landscaping requirements at their Carmel Mountain Ranch store. The measure passed 8-1, with Maienschein being the only opposing vote. "I don't want to see them do to another community what they have tried to do to ours," he said.

Following up on Maienschein demands, the pharmacy giant Sav-On was recently notified by the City of San Diego's code enforcement division for failure to properly vegetate and maintain landscaping on their property at its store at the intersection of Camino del Norte and Paseo Lucido.

Maienschein's dispute with Sav-On over its unsightly property began a year ago when he noticed the absence of landscaping and the massive amount of weeds dominating the graded slopes.

Councilmember Maienschein then wrote Sav-On a letter in June 2001 requesting that the vegetation on the slopes surrounding the store be improved immediately, but no action was taken by Sav-On.

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In 2001, I expanded the Teen Court program City-wide. The program served more than 850 students and 45 juvenile offenders last year, and expects to exceed this level of participation this year. Teen Court holds three to four court sessions per month at both City Hall and in various San Diego communities. This expansion started in District Five with Scripps Ranch High School, Rancho Bernardo High School, and Mira Mesa High School.

Teen Court is a remarkable program which produces phenomenal results. Most diversion programs are considered successful if they have a fifty percent re-offense rate, but Teen Court is such an effective deterrent that only three percent of its offenders are arrested again for a later



*Councilmember Maienschein presiding over Teen Court at City Hall.*

*Teen Court at Downtowns City Hall*

crime.

First-time misdemeanor offenses handled by Teen Court include shoplifting, marijuana at school, obstructing police, making false reports to police, vandalism, graffiti, truancy, battery, relationship violence and cruelty to animals.

An addition to the program this year is the establishment of a Sentence Review Board, where high school students will review each offender's performance in completing the sentence imposed. This Review Board will ensure that offenders comply with the jury's mandate, and will keep them on track to finish the program successfully if a particular element of the sentence is taking too long to complete. The goal here is to use peer pressure to reinforce positive behavior, just as peer pressure is exactly what sometimes leads to criminal activity in the first place.

Expanding Teen Court and reducing juvenile crime in our communities are high priorities of mine. I am excited to see so many young people all over the city have the experience to participate in and learn from a true courtroom experience. Another positive outcome is that local government, law enforcement, school officials and young people are working together to make this program possible.

For more information on Teen Court contact Heather Dugale, Teen Court Coordinator, at (619) 533-5742.



(Continued from page 1— SAV-ON)

Since that time, community leaders from Rancho Bernardo and Carmel Mountain Ranch have become adamant and vocal critics of the Sav-On site.

“I’ve refused to vote in favor of the Sav-On project on El Cajon Blvd. because of their inaction at the Carmel Mountain Ranch Sav-On store. I was hopeful that Sav-On would become a good corporate neighbor and meet the very realistic demands of those of us who live in the area by beautifying their property,” stated Maienschein. “Needless to say, its very disappointing that a company continuously and knowingly ignores the same community that they rely on for profit.”

The City of San Diego Code Compliance issued Sav-On a warning and mandated that the landscaping be improved by March 25, 2002. On March 28, 2002, after a code compliance officer found that Sav-On was still negligent and not meeting landscaping standards the city’s code enforcement division began public proceedings to fine Sav-On for violations. Since that time Sav-On has planted appropriate landscaping. A July 15th meeting held by the hearing officer at City Hall determined that Sav-On would pay a \$4,725.67 fine, and would have to agree to continue to maintain the landscape including weeding, watering and fertilizing. Progress inspections will be made by city staff every three months. Failure to adhere to this plan will cause an additional fine.



*Miramar Lake*

## Maienschein Update on Miramar Dam

**I**n response to Councilmember Brian Maienschein’s letter of April 24 requesting the opening of the gates at Miramar Dam, Governor Davis directed Thomas Hannigan of the California Department of Water Resources to report on the status of the dam closure. Specifically, Mr. Hannigan stated the State’s position as, “... until vulnerability assessments have been performed and security measures prioritized based on security needs there will continue to be an impact on public access to facilities such as this reservoir.”

Security assessments are scheduled to be completed by December 2002. San Diego confirmed that its funding for the study was approved on July 2. Funding comes from a \$115,000 grant from the EPA contained within Bioterrorism Response Act. The study is expected to be completed near the end of 2002.

To continue pursuing this issue and seek assistance from other officials, Maienschein has contacted the California Department of Fish & Game and the State Parks Department. Developments and progress will be reported in each newsletter and via email to interested individuals. To be on an email reporting list, contact Clint Carney at [ccarney@sandiego.gov](mailto:ccarney@sandiego.gov).



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